

# OVAE CONNECTION



## OVAE Welcomes Andrea Sáenz

Andrea Sáenz has joined OVAE as a member of the [Broad Residency Class of 2010-12](#). According to the [residency website](#), “The Broad Residency is a leadership development program that places participants into full-time high-level managerial positions in school districts, CMOs [charter management organizations], and federal/state departments of education.” Sáenz currently serves as a program specialist on an OVAE team developing a strategy for career and technical education (CTE) at secondary and postsecondary levels. She is working across the Department to identify policy, legislative and budget implications of a CTE strategy. In describing her view of education and her current opportunity, she said, “As the first in my family to complete college, I understand the value of education at a very personal level. A strong education and the life choices it affords should not be limited to a few. The [Broad Residency](#) provides me an opportunity to impact the life experiences of millions of Americans by improving the way they experience our educational system. I cannot imagine anything more rewarding.”

Sáenz previously was executive director of the Hispanic Alliance for Career Enhancement, where she collaborated with Fortune 500 employers, universities and Chicago Public Schools to increase Latinos’ access to professional and management careers. She also was a fellow at the University of Pennsylvania Fels Government Research Service, working on data-driven performance management for Philadelphia public schools and the Philadelphia Workforce Development Corporation. Sáenz began her career in non-profit leadership at [Congreso de Latinos Unidos](#), where she led an initiative to open Pennsylvania’s first bilingual, one-stop career center. She holds a bachelor’s degree in Latin American studies from Scripps College and a master’s degree in government administration from the University of Pennsylvania.

## OVAE Launches LINC S Web Site

With the closing of the National Institute for Literacy (NIFL) on Sept. 30, the Literacy Information and Communication System (LINC S) dissemination and professional development network is moving to OVAE. A [new LINC S website](#)—live Oct. 1—offers publications, subject-oriented online adult education and literacy instructional resources, archives of NIFL webcasts, a calendar of events, news items and discussion lists. Sign up via email to receive information about upcoming professional development opportunities, links to monthly resource collection newsletters, announcements of discussion list guests and webcasts.

## Secretary Duncan’s Statement on the Release of *Education at a Glance* by OECD

On Sept. 9, 2010, U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan issued the following statement on the release of [Education at a Glance](#) by the [Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development \(OECD\)](#):

“*Education at a Glance* affirms that the United States is headed in the right direction to meet President Obama’s goal of regaining the lead in college completion by the end of the decade. The United States moved from 12th in the world in 2007 in the percentage of young adults with a college degree to tied for ninth in the world in 2008. But we have a lot more work to do to get there.

“Meeting the President’s goal is essential to maintaining our global competitiveness and ensuring our long-term prosperity. *Education at a Glance* documents that college-educated workers in OECD nations are more likely to be employed and earn significantly more than those whose education ends at high school. It also shows that America must significantly reduce dropout rates and increase college attainment to meet the President’s goal. Almost 40 percent of American postsecondary students fail to graduate—while many of our economic competitors have dropout rates of less than 25 percent.

“Too many American students are not ready for college-level course work and are struggling to pay for college. Under the Obama administration’s school reform agenda, we are supporting states as they raise their academic standards so students truly are prepared for success in college and careers. With the President’s leadership, the funding for Pell Grants has almost doubled since he took office. The President also is committed to reducing the burden of college debt for those who enter public service. These investments are absolutely essential to supporting our students as they work toward meeting the President’s goal.”

## States Receive Funds That May Be Applied to Enhance NRS

The Department’s Institute of Education Sciences (IES) has awarded grants to [20 state education departments](#) for the design and implementation of statewide longitudinal data systems. The grants support states with the development and implementation of systems that promote linking data across time and databases, from early childhood to career. The National Reporting System for Adult Education (NRS) could be enhanced in such efforts. The new grants raise the number of states that IES has funded for data systems development to 41 plus the District of Columbia. A downloadable abstract of the work each state is planning to complete is provided along with each state’s original applications to the grant program, as redacted and published by the [U.S. Department of Education’s Freedom of Information Act \(FOIA\) Office](#).